

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8162

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT ON THAI INTERNAL POLITICS

PRIME MINISTER M.R. KHUKRIT PRAMOT GAVE A BRIEF NEWS CONFERENCE AT DON MUANG AIRPORT ON JULY 21 PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TO MANILA AND SINGAPORE. THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS ON THAI INTERNAL POLITICS ARE FROM AN INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATION OF A TRANSCRIPT OF HIS REMARKS.

BEGIN EXCERPTS:

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REPORTER: DON'T YOU FEEL WORRY OVER TROUBLESOME INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN THAILAND AT PRESENT, SINCE YOU ARE GOING ABROAD AND WILL BE ABSENT FOR ONE WEEK?

KHUKRIT: OTHER PERSONS FEEL THAT THE SITUATION IS TROUBLED, BUT MY VIEW IS THAT IT IS NOT, THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO CAUSE CONCERN.

REPORTER: SUCH AS NEWS REPORTS THAT THIS AND THAT PARTY WILL JOIN THE GOVERNMENT?

KHUKRIT: I KNOW NOTHING AT ALL. FOR INSTANCE, I
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KNOW NOTHING OF THE NEWS REPORT THAT FINANCE MINISTER

BUNCHOO ROCHANASATHIEN HAS MADE CONTACT WITH ANY PARTY.
IF HE HAD REALLY MADE CONTACT, HE WOULD HAVE INFORMED ME.
I KNOW NOTHING AT ALL AND I ONLY READ THE NEWS REPORT
PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS, SO I HAVE NO COMMENT.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU ASSERTED THAT WHEN YOU RETURN THAT
THERE WILL BE A REORGANIZATION OF THE CABINET?

KHUKRIT: THE BUDGET BILL MUST BE GIVEN PRIORITY.
AFTER IT HAS BEEN PASSED IN ALL STAGES, THEN I MIGHT
TAKE UP FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER THE CABINET OUGHT TO
BE REORGANIZED. NOTHING IS CERTAIN YET, EXCEPT THAT
PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO THE BUDGET BILL.

REPORTER: DO YOU FEEL ANY WORRY IN REGARD TO THE BUDGET
BILL?

KHUKRIT: I DON'T FEEL ANY WORRY AT ALL OVER IT.

END EXCERPTS.
WHITEHOUSE

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